Sherlock Holmes VS. Arsène Lupin

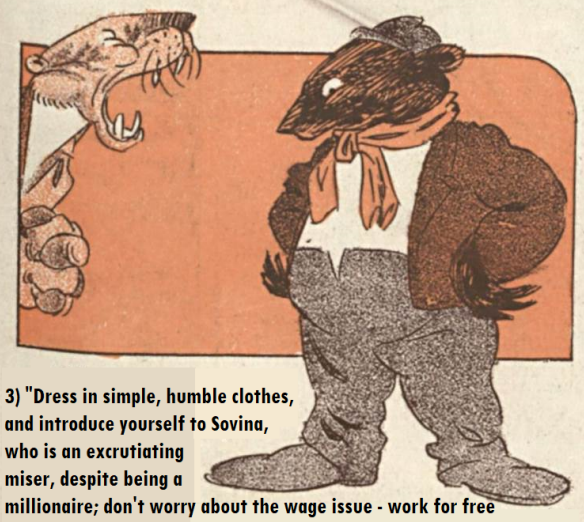
(Mr. Sovina's Millions)

I

1) Lupin was sitting comfortably, reading the morning newspapers, when he came across the following announcement:

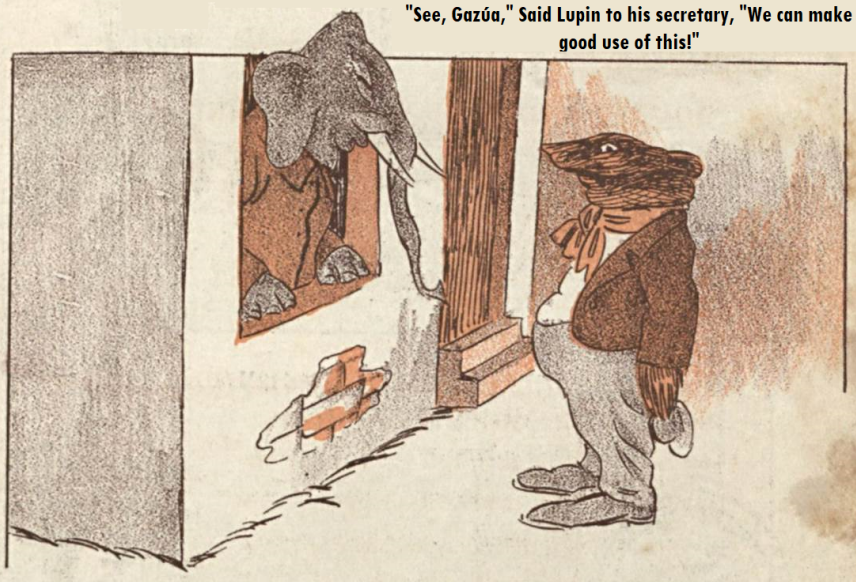
2) "*We would like to hire a servant that works well, and, above all, is cheap. You will work for Mr. Sovina. There are so many streets. So many.*"

"See, Gazúa," Said Lupin to his secretary, "We can make good use of this!"



3) "Dress in simple, humble clothes, and introduce yourself to Sovina, who is an excrutiating miser, despite being a millionaire; don't worry about the wage issue - work for free if you need to, and find out where his millions are."

In less than half an hour, Gazúa was deftly disguised.



4) Then, Gazúa introduced himself to Sovina, who, after a lot of haggling, hired Gazúa for a salary of $5 a month.

5) Days passed, and Gazúa showed himself to be the model of servants, always helpful and always humble to Sovina's impertinent admonitions.

6) However, no matter how hard he looked, Gazúa was unable to discover the usurer's safe.

(*Usurer - One who lends money at interest, especially at an exorbitant or unlawfully high rate*)

7) In this emergency, Gazúa decided to speak to Lupin.

Lupin was calm, already assured of the success of their venture, and said to him "Don't close your eyes at night, and always try to follow in our man's footsteps; this way you will certainly discover our future treasure."

(*To Be Continued*)

Sherlock Holmes VS. Arsène Lupin

(Mr. Sovina's Millions)

II

8) So said, so done! One night, Gazúa saw Sovina get up, and go to a completely empty room in the house. Gazúa followed him and saw him lift a door in the floor, something that, until then, Gazúa had not known existed.

9) Following Sovina very subtly, Gazúa reached the bottom of the stairs, to a basement, and his astonishment increased even more when he saw Sovina open a large chest, which was full of coins of all denominations! *Prompto!* Gazúa had discovered the treasure.

10) The usurer, who examined and turned over his riches greedily, did not even imagine that he had been followed. Thus, Gazúa could easily hide under the stairs without being discovered, and simply wait for Sovina to pass

11) A great darkness reigned after Sovina went back up, and Gazúa groped his way over to the chest. He could feel, however, that it was very well secured with a thick padlock.

12) In absolute darkness, he managed to find the stairs and went back up to the empty room. Returning once more to the chest despite difficulty in the darkness, Gazúa brought a piece of wax and measured the lock, pressing the wax against the padlock.

13) The next day, Gazúa was to have a conveniently arranged meeting with Lupin. Agreeing, Gazúa went to a blacksmith and had a key made according to the imprint on the wax, claiming the key was simply needed for a cupboard.

Sherlock Holmes VS. Arsène Lupin

(Mr. Sovina's Millions)

III

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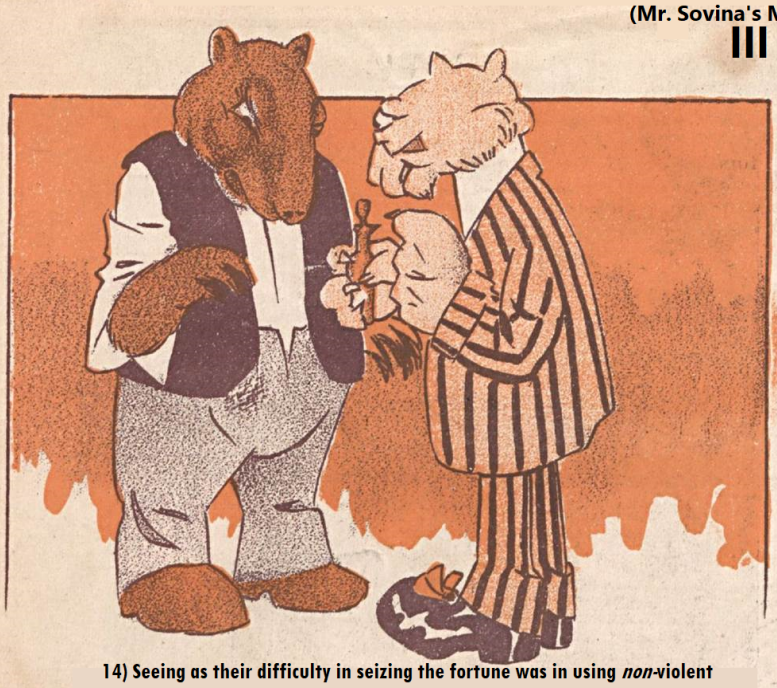
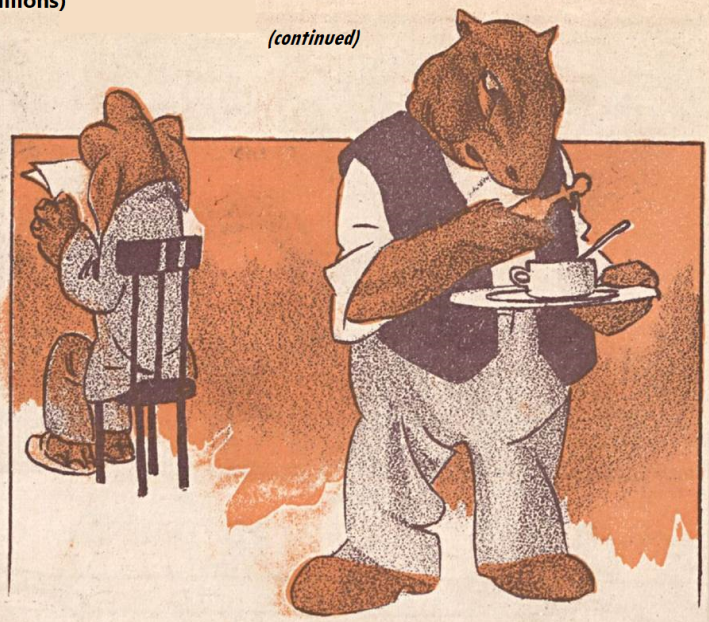
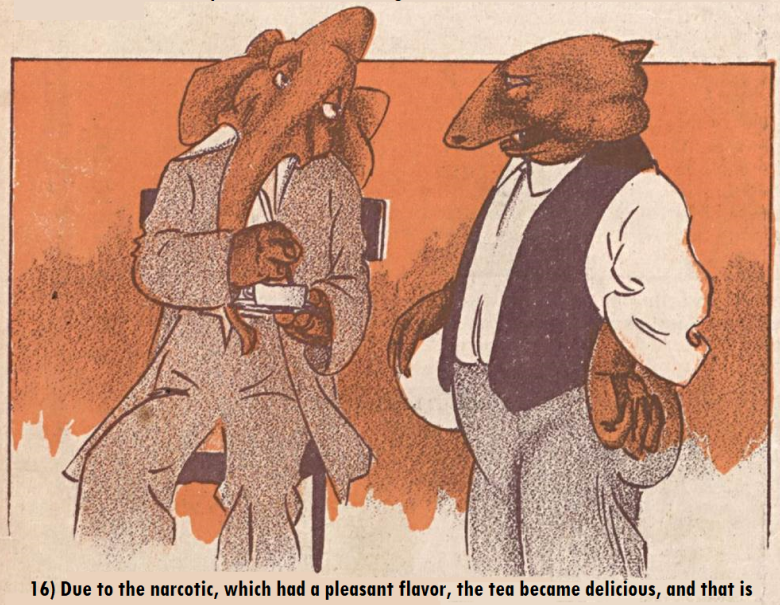


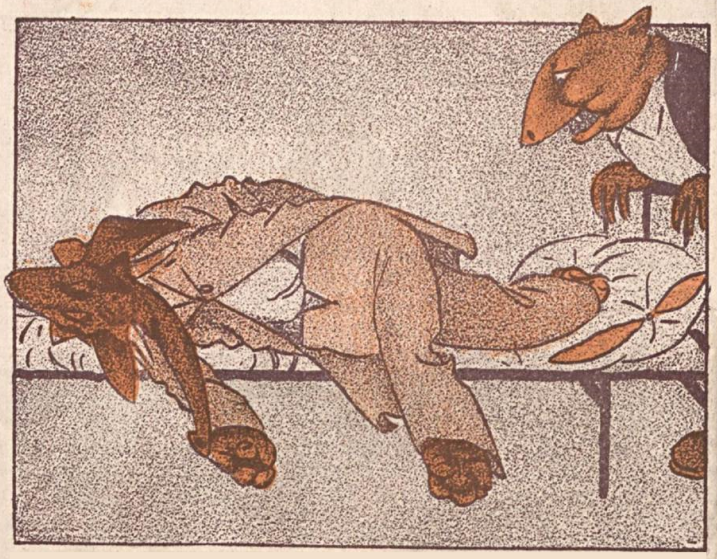
14) Seeing as their difficulty in seizing the fortune was in using *non*-violent methods, Lupin instead gave Gazúa a bottle containing a strong narcotic, so that Gazúa could mix a few drops into Sovina's evening tea.



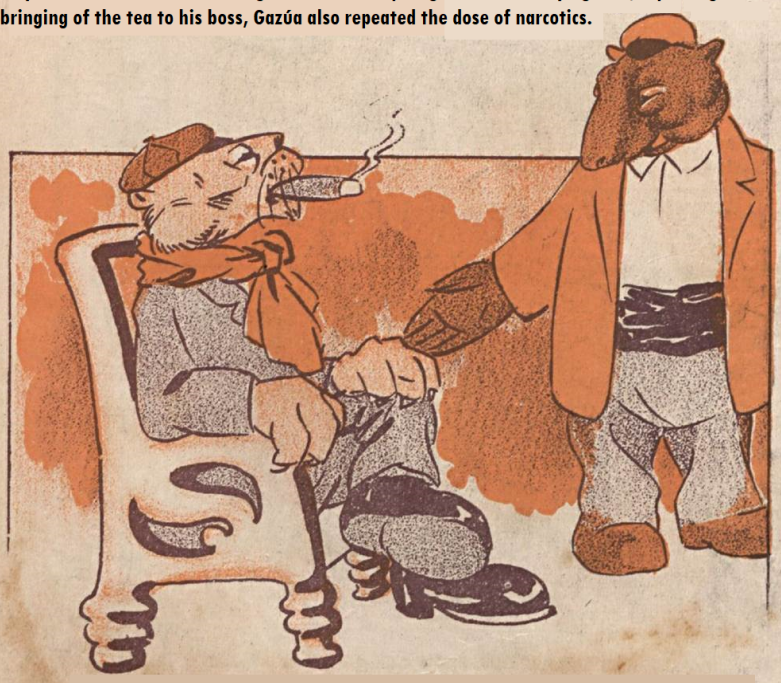
15) Gazúa faithfully followed Lupin's prescription: he dropped a certain number of drops into Sovina's tea, which he gave to the usurer to drink.



16) Due to the narcotic, which had a pleasant flavor, the tea became delicious, and that is why Sovina asked Gazúa to bring him another cup; it goes without saying that, repeating the bringing of the tea to his boss, Gazúa also repeated the dose of narcotics.



17) It didn't take long for a very intense sleep to take over the usurer, and such was his state of weakness that he threw himself fully clothed on the bed, laying in a very unique way: with his feet resting on the pillow!



18) Without wasting time, Gazúa ran to Lupin's house to inform him there was nothing left to do but search the safe; Lupin, already anticipating the results of his drug, was waiting for his accomplice, ready to work.

19) So, they went together to Sovina's home, trying to walk through the most deserted streets, in order to avoid the gaze of any police officers.

(To Be Continued)

Sherlock Holmes VS Arsène Lupin

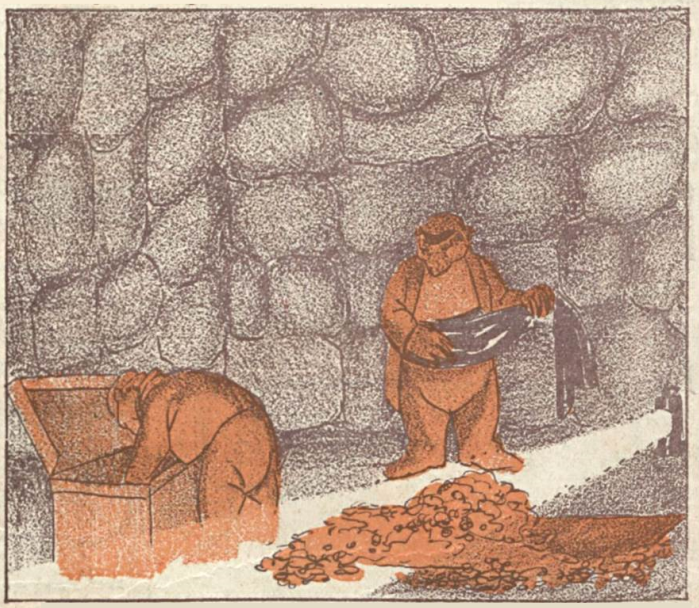
(Mr. Sovina's Millions)

IV

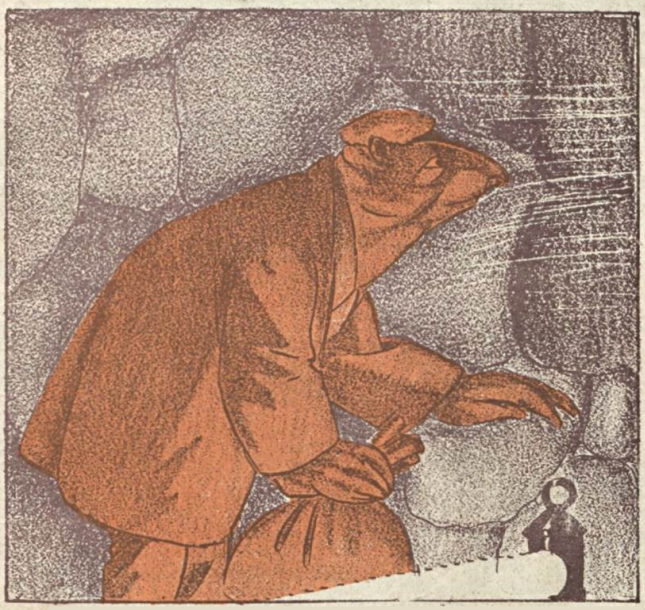
(continued)

20) They were able to penetrate the usurer's home with the greatest of ease, because Gazúa, in addition to the false key for the chest, had also made one for the front door. Lupin, who was entering behind Gazúa, was careful to close the door behind them, however, he forgot the key.

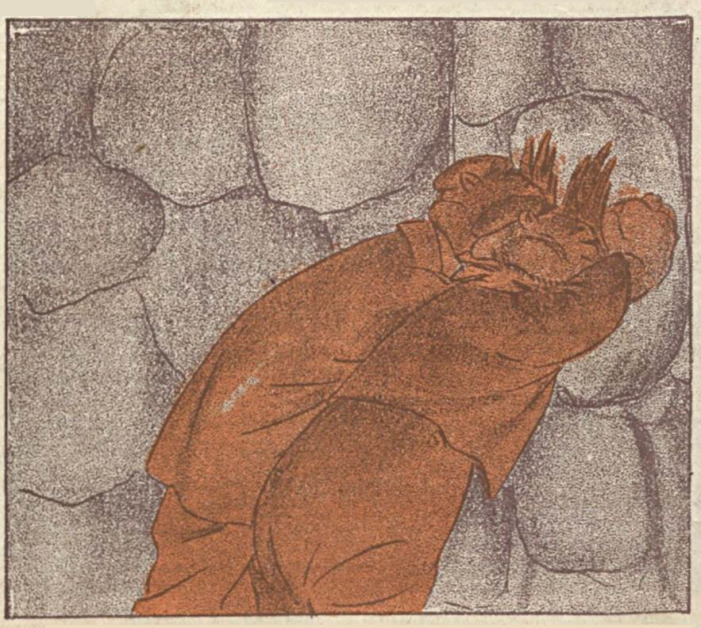
21) Upon seeing the amount of money that the chest contained, even Lupin was astonished, and such was his admiration that the indefectible cigar fell out of his mouth!



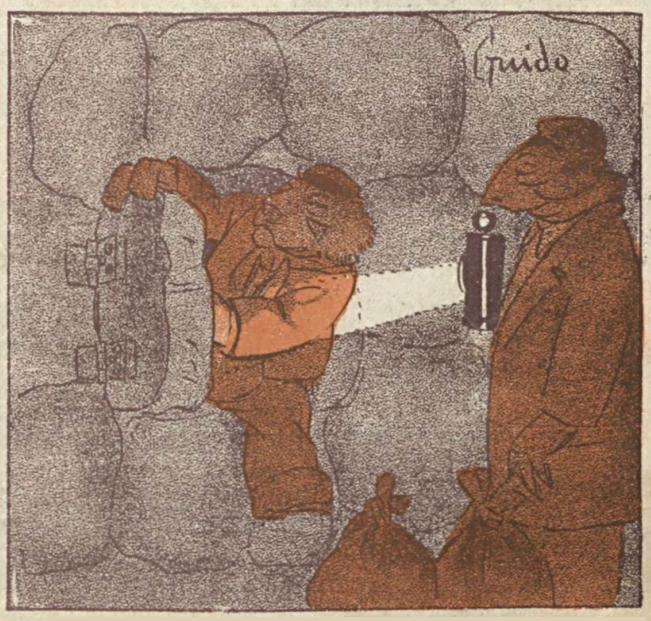
22) Unwinding their special wide waist belts, they both began filling them with an immensity of gold, emptying the chest in just a few moments; the money, however, was too much to be carried by just two people, with a large portion of coins still scattered on the floor.



23) As he bent down to pick up the lantern that was sitting in the corner, Gazúa felt a cold, weak draft of air on his face. Looking closely at the wall, he saw that a stone was unaligned.



24) Gazúa got Lupin's attention to the stone. Together, they pressed it, and it gave under their strength, but did not fall; instead, they saw with great astonishment...



25) .... that the basement was divided; without any hesitation, they crawled through the mysterious door...

(To Be Continued)

Sherlock Holmes VS. Arsène Lupin

(Mr. Sovina's Millions)

V

26) The underground was very narrow, like a tunnel. Eager to know its entire expanse, they began to walk through it. After a few minutes, with the light from the lantern, they saw a small door in the distance.

27) The door was too narrow, and only allowed one person to go through at once; Lupin, who was quite a cautious man, told Gazúa to go through first.

28) The door led to an old, abandoned well, dry, but very, very deep. To go up or down, there was a stone staircase, and in this way, the two thieves were able to go up, without any effort. The well, however, was completely surrounded by a wild forest, and there was no path for them to follow.

29) It was only after a tremendous struggle through thorns and rough bushes that blocked their passage, they finally managed to get out into open air, with their clothes all torn and bloody. When they arrived home, they changed into new clothes and started to count their new fortune — a task that lasted three days!

30) Two days after *that*, with the drug having lost its effects, Sovina opened his eyes, and, with tremendous difficulty, sat up in bed. He was as thin and as pale as a corpse!

31) Still, he was determined. With great diffuculty, supported by two walking sticks, he began to walk. His servant was not here, and a dreadful thought occured to him: *Check the safe!*

31) But, *oh!*

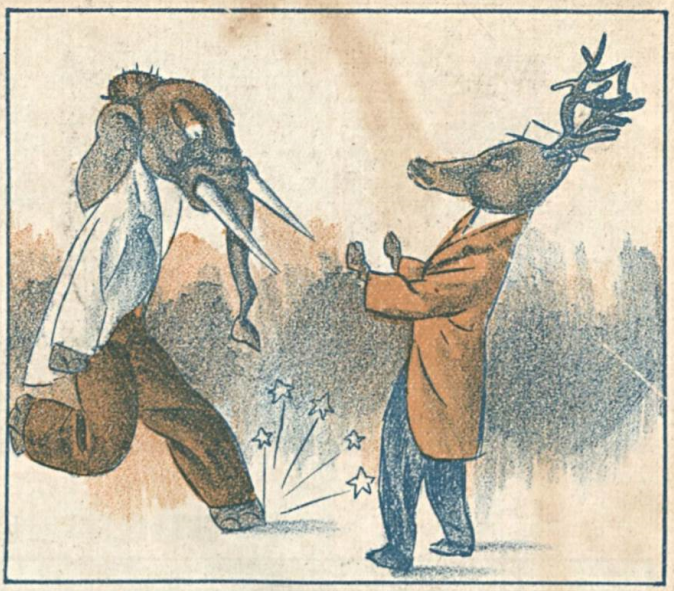
Unfortunately, the safe was open and empty; Sovina, at that moment, was the victim of a syncope of rage.

Sherlock Holmes VS Arsène Lupin

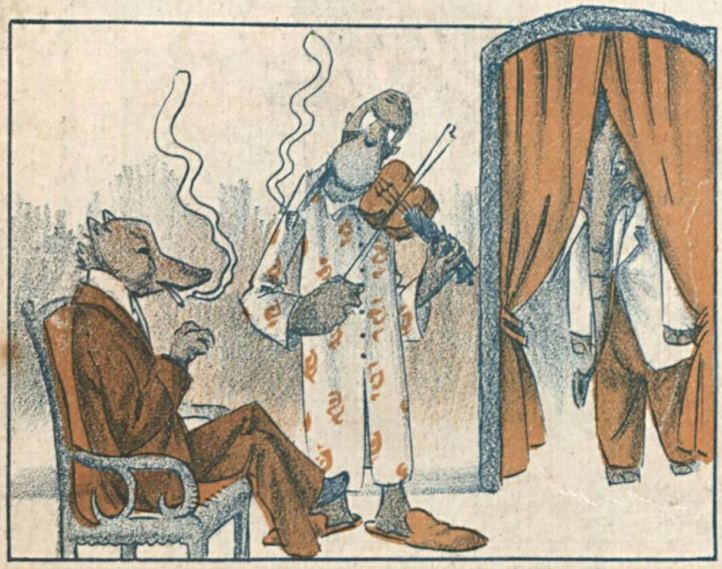
(Mr. Sovina's Millions)

VI

32) As soon as he awakened, Sovina took off down the street, in a formidable rage, as though he were the south wind.



33) The speed at which he was going, however, was not fast enough to prevent one of his friends, seeing him raging like this, from thinking he was out of his mind, and stopping him. Panting, Savina, in brief and suffocated words, told him everything, adding: "Now, I am going to the police to ask for their help!"

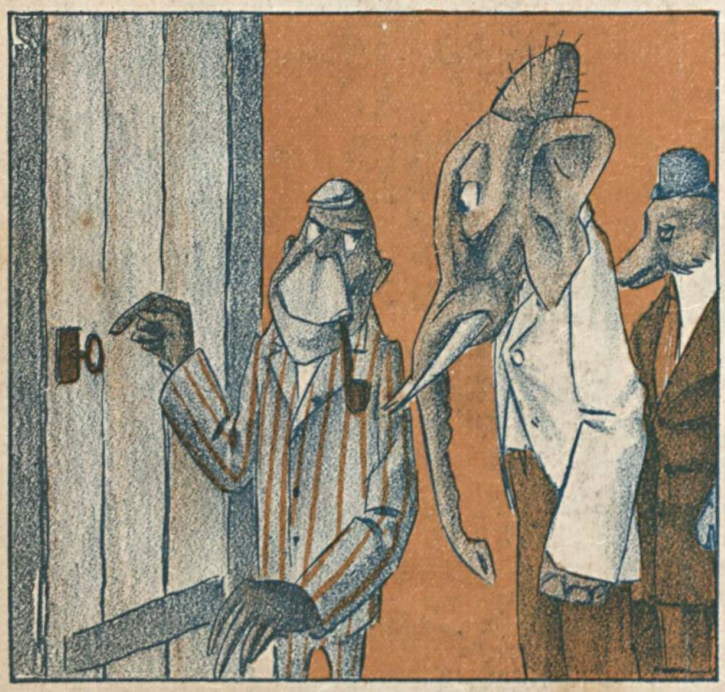


34) But his friend did not think that was a reasonable choice, and advised him: "You should instead consult Sherlock Holmes, the Great Amateur Detective!" Whom Sovina had only heard of by name.

Encouraged by the advice of his friend, Sovina went to Sherlock.

35) Sovina found him in the company of Dr. Watson, his friend and chronicler. There, Sovina told Sherlock in detail his entire story: the missing servant, the opened and emptied safe, his nervous breakdown, etc.

Sherlock, phlegmatically smoking his pipe, listened to the usurer's tale with the patience of someone who knows where his nose is.



36) Later, everyone was gathered at Sovina's home. The first thing that caught Holmes' attention was the door to the secret room, and he questioned whether it had been closed or open when Sovina got up from his bed.

Sovina replied that he had found it perfectly closed, with the key in his bag.

Sherlock thought, '*The Scoundrels must have escaped through some other place*'.

37) Arriving underground, the Great Detective noticed that the uncollected coins were arranged in the silhouette of rectangles, which evidently meant they had been poured onto some four-sided object. Having noticed this interesting circumstance, the detective deduced that more than one individual was involved in the case.

Sherlock Holmes VS Arsène Lupin

(Mr. Sovina's Millions)

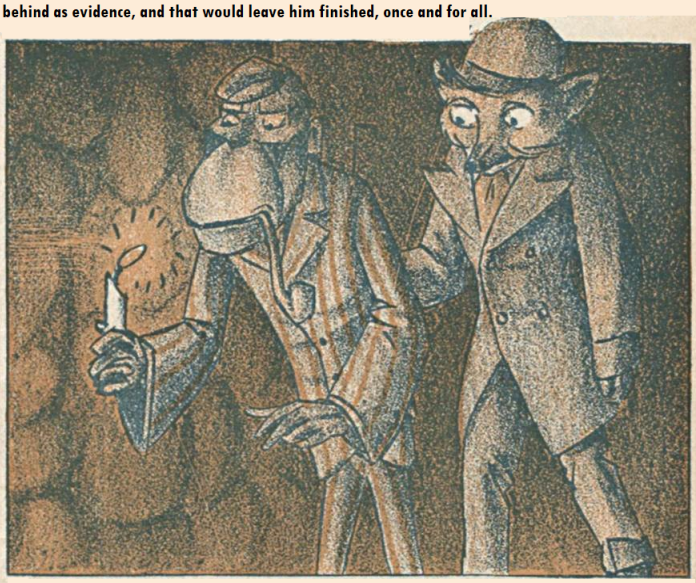
VII

(continued)

38) At this time, Sovina's prescence was no longer required, and for this reason, Sherlock advised him to leave — leave them alone so they could investigate better. The discover of the rich theives depending soley on him, on Sherlock.

39) Sovina thought this was reasonable; however, it was even *more* reasonable for him to pick up the rest of the coins that lay on the ground, attending to the poverty that seemed determined to open its doors to him. The police could confiscate those meager coppers which the theives had left behind as evidence, and that would leave him finished, once and for all.

40) As soon as the usurer turned his back, Sherlock, assisted by Dr. Watson, began to examine the entire underground room, to see if he could find any evidence of the thieves. Suddenly, he found the cigar that Lupin had dropped to the floor. Got them! It was of a superior brand, made in Java only, and, of course, Sherlock knew the only house that sold that type of cigar.



41) "Ah hah!" Said the Great Detective, "This Rascal has good taste! We already have a lead, Watson. Now, let's find the place where these men escaped."

They examined the entire wall with great attention. Arriving at a section of wall, Sherlock noticed that his candle was melting on just one side, and in this way discovered the well-disguised stone door.

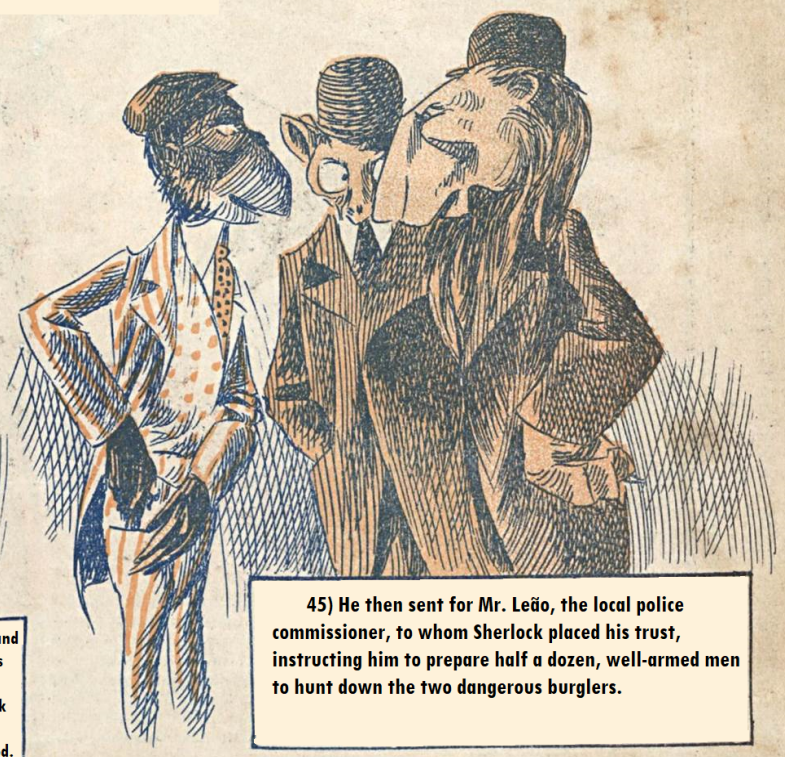
42) In this way, like Lupin and Gazúa, the Great Detective and his friend discovered the extensive underground corridor, which led to the abandonded well.

43) Arriving at the Earth's surface once more from the underground, they found themselves completely surrounded by forest. Investigating the terrain closely, they found signs of violence — there were broken branches, scattered coins, and scraps of cloth left behind on thorny branches. Sherlock immediately pocketed the cloth scraps, and, having discovered the path of the thieves, they continued to follow the trail.

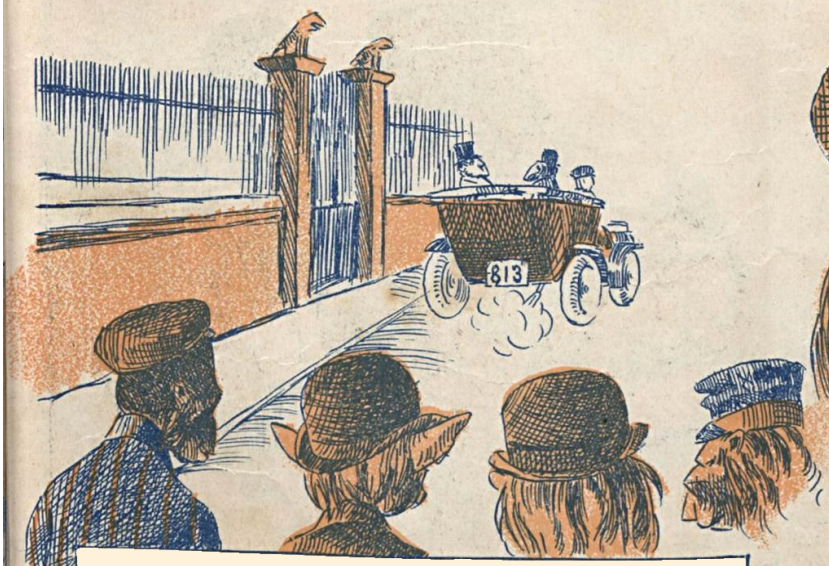
Sherlock Holmes VS Arsène Lupin

(Conclusion)

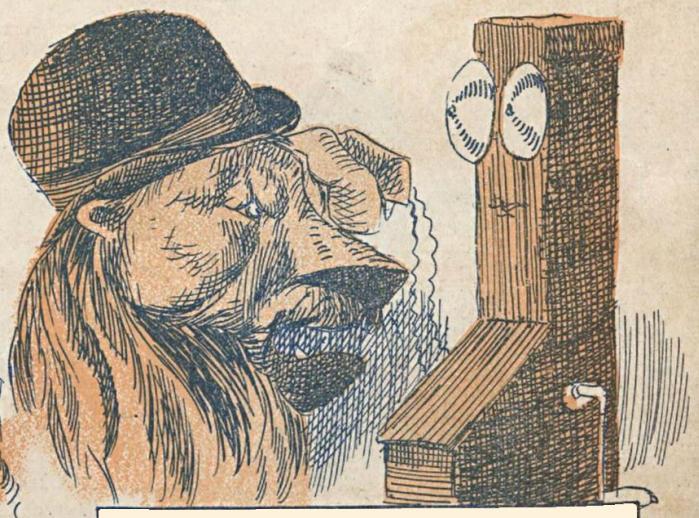
44) Arriving home, Sherlock began to examine the scraps of cloth he and Dr. Watson had collected from the forest, comparing them to the servants uniform he had been given by one of his contacts, a servant of a local aristocrat by the name of Dr. Bluf. Looking at the uniform pants, Sherlock found it was an identical match to the peices of cloth they had recovered from the woods, which was almost completely torn and stained with blood.



45) He then sent for Mr. Leão, the local police commissioner, to whom Sherlock placed his trust, instructing him to prepare half a dozen, well-armed men to hunt down the two dangerous burglers.



46) The next morning, Sherlock, accompanied by all his people, knocked on the house of Dr. Bluf, who, as readers may have already discovered, was the alias of none other than Arsène Lupin! But, they were only a few steps away from the garden gate, when a car carrying Lupin and Gazúa started speeding away!



47) Without wasting time, Police Commissioner Leão ran to the nearest police station and called up the Chief of Police, urgently requesting their fastest car.

48) After minutes of waiting, the police car arrived and everyone piled in. What followed was a great race through the streets in search of the thieves, to no result. But finally, after over an hour, they managed to locate the car labled '813'.

Seeing they were being pursued, Lupin ordered his chauffer to go full speed, but it was in vain; just a few minutes later, and the police succesfully caught up to them.

49) It was in this fashion that the famous Arsène Lupin and his secretary, Gazúa, was arrested and imprisoned.

As for Sovina's millions? They had already spent them!

The usurer, upon hearing this most unpleasant news, was said by the tabloids to have hung himself in despair.